

parties hunting for insects. Reid says that it arrives as early as September, and leaves as late as April, but I have only noticed it during the colder months. It is also found in mango-topes.

No. 418. PHYLLOSCOPUS HUMIL. *Hume's Willow-Warbler.*

Fairly common, though less so, I should fancy, than *P. tristis*. It inhabits much the same localities, and arrives and departs about the same time.

No. 421. ACANTHOPNEUSTE NITIDUS. *Green Willow-Warbler.*

Reid says :—"Only, I think, a cold-weather visitant, though I have shot it in September, and as late as the end of April. It frequents mango-topes, and is fairly abundant in the fences along the railway."

My observations agree with the above, and I have nothing further to add.

No. 422. *ACANTHOPNEUSTE VIRIDANUS. *Greenish Willow-Warbler.*

In the Museum are three specimens (♂ ♂ ♀), identified as belonging to this species, labelled "Lucknow." They were obtained by the native Museum collector.

No. 464. PRINIA SOCIALIS. *Ashy Wren-Warbler.*

Phutki [H.]. Tom-tit [Anglo-Indian boys].

This little bird is a common and permanent resident, and is especially fond of dhak- and thorn-jungle. Reid remarks that "it is very destructive in gardens, where it destroys peas with a vengeance, snapping its tail at anyone who attempts to interfere with its apparently favourite pastime." The reference to the tail-snapping brought on poor Reid's head the scorn of A. O. Hume, but, though badly expressed, the former's observation was correct. When disturbed this bird flits about, jerking its tail, and making a snapping noise. This snap is, in my opinion, made by bringing the two mandibles sharply together. Whenever it does this, the bird jerks its tail—hence Reid's error. It makes a nest like that of a Tailor-bird, but with rarely less than

three or four leaves stitched together, and lined with hair, in contradistinction to the true Tailor-bird, which lines the structure with cotton. On one occasion I found a nest of this bird in a clump of patowal, made of woven grass like that of *P. inornata*. I have always taken the eggs in June and July; but I once had one which was hard-set brought to me on March 31st. They are four or five in number, glossy, and of a beautiful brick-red.

Average of 13 Lucknow eggs	·62" × ·45"
Measurement of largest egg	·63" × ·47"
„ smallest egg	·62" × ·42"

No. 465. *PRINIA SYLVATICA. *Jungle Wren-Warbler*.

So far as I am in a position to judge, this bird is very local. I believe that the late Major Cock found it not uncommonly in the Sitapur district; but I know of only one spot where it is to be found in Lucknow, and that is in the patowal grass on the side of the railway as it runs by the Martinière College park. That the bird cannot be common is, I think, evident, not only from the fact that Reid did not mention it, but because the Martinière boys, than whom none are cleverer egg-finders, did not formerly know it. I have found its nest, a pretty little domed ball of grass, built close to the ground, on three occasions: once in June, 1895, when the eggs were taken by a boy, and twice in the rains of 1901. The first of these two nests contained an egg, which disappeared; the second contained a clutch of five of a dull green colour, with a ring of faint red dots. These I took on July 27th, and the bird was sitting. I had a good view of her as she perched on a piece of wire, but unfortunately failed to secure her.

Average of 5 Lucknow eggs	·68" × ·50"
Measurement of largest egg	·73" × ·50"
„ smallest egg	·62" × ·51"

No. 466. PRINIA INORNATA. *Indian Wren-Warbler*.

Ghas Phutki [H.]. Weaver-bird [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Indian Wren-Warbler is extremely common, particularly in the sarpatta or patowal grass used for thatching.

In this it breeds abundantly during the rains, making a lovely little egg-shaped nest, with a hole in the side near the top. The structure is composed of thin strips of the grass, and is unlined. The eggs, four or five in number, are of two types: (a) green, with black, brown, and purple blotches and streaks; (b) pinky white, with similar marks. The latter are very uncommon.

Average of 62 Lucknow eggs (green)	·60" × ·45"
Measurement of largest egg	·62" × ·45"
„ smallest egg	·53" × ·44"
Average of 8 Lucknow eggs (white)	·57" × ·41"
Measurement of largest egg	·59" × ·42"
„ smallest egg	·56" × ·42"

It may be noted that *all* small birds and Warblers are here called "Phutki" indiscriminately.

No. 469. LANIUS LAHTORA. *Indian Grey Shrike.*

Saféd lahtora [H.]. Big-caste Butcher-bird [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Grey Shrike, though not numerous, is widely distributed, and is particularly partial to babool-topes. It feeds on crickets, locusts, lizards, and the like. It may occasionally seize a sickly or young bird, but I have never actually seen it do so. It breeds from the beginning of March to the beginning of July. I have found a considerable number of the nests, always massive cups of thorns, rags, tow, grass, and feathers, neat and warm internally, but very untidy externally, and often visible for some distance away. Nineteen out of twenty are in babool trees, but once I shot a bird off a nest with four eggs in a sheshum tree about six feet from the ground.

When there are eggs only, the bird is very shy, and it is often difficult to get a good view of it as it flies away. For the above-mentioned specimen I had to wait nearly an hour before I could get a chance of a shot. When there are young it is quite another matter, and the parents are in general very bold. On one occasion, as I was examining her brood, the hen ran up and down the branches close to me just like a squirrel. The greatest number of eggs which I

have ever found was five, but I fancy that four is the proper number, and three hard-set eggs or young are frequent.

The following are a few details taken from my diary :—

Mar. 4.....	nest and 4 fresh eggs :	babool.
„ 5.....	„ 3 „ „	
„ 26.....	„ 3 nearly-fledged young :	babool.
April 14.....	„ 5 (3 set; 2 rotten) eggs :	babool.
May 9.....	„ 1 fresh egg :	babool.
„ 14.....	„ 3 „ „	
„ 22.....	„ 4 „ sheshum.	
June 13.....	„ 3 „ babool.	
July 11.....	„ 2 half-fledged young :	babool.

Average of 13 Lucknow eggs 1.01'' × .76''

Measurement of largest egg 1.06'' × .80''

„ smallest egg97'' × .74''

No. 473. *LANIUS VITTATUS*. *Bay-backed Shrike*.

Small-caste Butcher-bird [Anglo-Indian boys].

Not very numerous, but a few are met with during the season. At one time two or three pairs used to frequent the "cork" trees near the place now occupied by John's Ice Factory, but of late years they have disappeared. I have not taken many nests, and in most instances they have been hard to find, as the bird is much more careful in concealing her home than other Shrikes. It is placed in a large fork close to the trunk for preference, and is very neat, made of rags, tow, grass, &c. The eggs are from three to five, of the usual Shrike-like character, and often very handsome.

The following are the details of my discoveries :—

Mar. 21.....	nest ready for eggs :	cork-tree.
„ 27.....	nest and 1 fresh egg :	babool.
April 9.....	„ 3 „ „	
May 5.....	„ 2 young :	babool.
June 5.....	„ 3 fresh eggs :	babool.
„ 9.....	„ 2 young and 2 addled eggs :	babool.
„ 30.....	„ 5 fresh eggs :	babool.
July 1.....	„ 2 „ „	

Average of 10 Lucknow eggs79'' × .60''

Measurement of largest egg81'' × .64''

„ smallest egg72'' × .58''

NO. 476. *LANIUS ERYTHRONOTUS*. *Rufous-backed Shrike*.

Mattiya lahtora [H.].

According to my experience this species is rarer close to Lucknow than either *L. lahtora* or *L. vittatus*, but further out in the District it is much the commonest Shrike. I saw numbers on the telegraph-wires one day in December as I was travelling between Lucknow and Cawnpore. It breeds here, and I have taken what I believe to be its nest and eggs on two or three occasions. They resembled those of *L. lahtora*, but were a trifle smaller. I saw the birds, but in a bad light, when it was impossible to swear to anything. All the nests and eggs were found at one end of a babool-tope, and at the other end I took several nests of *L. lahtora*, shooting the birds. I distinctly saw both the Shrikes in the tope, and though I did not succeed in obtaining a single specimen of *L. erythronotus* at its nest, I am fairly confident of the genuineness of my eggs. I hope, however, to succeed later in getting a clutch with the parent bird.

Average of 9 (presumed <i>erythronotus</i>) Lucknow eggs..	·97" × ·73"
Measurement of largest egg	1·00" × ·75"
„ smallest egg	·95" × ·70"

NO. 479. *LANIUS ISABELLINUS*. *Pale-brown Shrike*.

Reid stated that this Shrike was not common. As he apparently got only one specimen, an adult (? sex), at Ajgaen, which is now in the Lucknow Museum, and as I have never met with it in seven years, I think that it cannot be said to be a frequent visitor to this part of Oudh.

NO. 481. *LANIUS CRISTATUS*. *Brown Shrike*.

This pretty Shrike is not uncommon in the cold weather. I have often seen and shot it in babool-topes on open plains. All the specimens that I have secured have been more or less barred.

NO. 488. *TEPHRODORNIS PONDICERIANUS*. *Common Wood-Shrike*.

Kerula [H., *teste* Reid]. Tanti-tuia [Anglo-Indian boys].

This species is fairly common and is a permanent resident. According to Reid's experience and my own it is always

found in gardens, avenues, or mango-groves, and I have never seen it in low scrub or dhak-jungle. This Shrike was generally noticed by me singly or in pairs, but Reid described it as moving about "in small parties, apparently searching the leaves and branches of trees for insects, caterpillars, &c." It breeds from the middle of March to the end of May—possibly later.

The nest, a felted cup made of rootlets, bits of bark, cloth, string, &c., and coated over with cobwebs, is *very* difficult to find. The bird is extremely suspicious, and cannot easily be made to betray its home. Moreover, if a nest is disturbed during the building process, it is almost certain to be forsaken and destroyed. For several years I tried to get the eggs, but without success. In 1901, however, I took three nests with my own hands:—

March 25. . . .	Bird sitting on nest with 3 fresh eggs.
April 24	" " " 4 slightly set eggs: ♀ shot.
May 25	" " " 3 newly set eggs.

The first nest was in a neem tree, the other two were in mangos. The colour of the eggs is white with a greenish tinge, thickly spotted and mottled with various shades of brown and purple. Those of the first and second nests have the markings pretty evenly distributed all over, but in those of the third the majority go to form dense rings near the larger end.

The note of this bird, though difficult to express in words, is pretty and mellow, and easily recognised. The name given to this species by the Martinière boys represents the sound about as nearly as any word can do.

Average of 10 Lucknow eggs	·70" × ·58"
Measurement of largest egg	·75" × ·61"
,, smallest egg	·66" × ·56"

No. 490. PERICROCOTUS SPECIOSUS. *Indian Scarlet Minivet.*

Sat suki kapi [H., *teste* Reid].

In the winter of 1894 Mr. John Spence, of La Martinière College, shot a pair of birds, male and female, which he kindly gave to me. I had only just arrived in India and knew nothing

about its ornithology. By the aid of "Jerdon" I made them out as belonging to this species, but unfortunately never preserved them. I have never actually handled a Lucknow specimen since. Though possibly the bird may be overlooked, on account of being mistaken for its smaller cousin, *P. brevirostris*, I think that it is but a rare winter visitor from Kumaun. Reid has written: "Rare it undoubtedly is, but small parties, chiefly females, may be met with occasionally, from November to the end of February, in mango-topes all over the Division, while I have frequently seen it in the Horticultural Gardens at Lucknow. It is strange that, though this species visits us, *P. roseus* does not."

No. 495. PERICROCOTUS BREVIROSTRIS. *Short-billed Minivet.*

Sat suki kapi [H., teste Reid]. Large Raja Lal [Anglo-Indian boys].

A fairly common winter visitor, frequenting gardens and mango-groves in large and small parties, the females predominating. The birds generally keep near the tops of the trees, and are constantly on the move, flitting from twig to twig eagerly searching for insects. They first put in an appearance about November, though sometimes as early as October, and depart for the hills in February.

No. 500. PERICROCOTUS PEREGRINUS. *Small Minivet.*

Raja Lal [Anglo-Indian boys].

This pretty little bird is a common and permanent resident. Like other Minivets, it goes about in small parties, except in the breeding-season, searching the trees for insects. The nest is a most lovely little cup of vegetable fibres, lichens, bark, and cobwebs, while it is so small and so like a knot on a branch that it is almost impossible to find it, except by carefully watching the birds. I have taken it on the sheshum, but principally on the mango and babool, at all heights from six to forty feet. A most curious fact in connexion with this bird is that—with, I think, only one or two exceptions at the most—I have always found nests,

whether building or with eggs, in possession of *three* birds, *two* females and one male. What is the exact duty of this second wife I cannot make out. Possibly she may be a drudge. That she exists I have satisfied myself time after time, and so convinced are the Martinière boys of the fact that they—no mean observers, by the way—rarely trouble to look for a nest if only one female is present. Unfortunately I have never yet found out what happens when there are young. Whether both females take part in incubation and in rearing the young, I do not know. I do not think that both lay eggs, as I have never found more than three. I wonder whether the second wife is pressed into service, or whether two are taken on trial and the barren one dispensed with.

The great majority of these birds breed with us in *March and April*; but I have taken nests in May, and once a *single hard-set egg* as late as July 26. This strikes me as curious, seeing that Oates gives the breeding-season as “from June to October.” The eggs are somewhat variable in coloration: I have them white with large brown blotches, and white spotted with rusty red like those of *Parus major*; but the majority, I think, are bluish white, with various markings of brown, purple, and claret. Several of these eggs, as also those of other birds which breed on inaccessible boughs, I have obtained by the following device:—A sheet is held underneath the nest by four men, one at each corner. Another ascends the tree, and, with a long stick, carefully pushes the eggs one by one out of the nest. Unless they fall against some twig on the way the chances are ten to one on their being taken safely from the sheet.

Average of 17 Lucknow eggs	.....	·66" × ·51"
Measurement of largest egg	.....	·68" × ·55"
„ smallest egg	.....	·61" × ·49"

No. 508. *CAMPOPHAGA SYKESI. *Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike.*

Jungle-Warbler [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike visits Lucknow about May, and leaves at the end of the “rains”; at any rate, I

have never seen nor heard it at other times. It is far from common; but its rich mellow notes attract attention at once. I have only met with it in two or three localities. It breeds in the Martinière Park, and in some of the baghs, or gardens, towards the city, during the latter part of May, June, and July.

The nest, which is most difficult to discover, I have found twice only. On June 10th, 1898, in a so-called "cork" tree, I found a nest with two eggs. Unfortunately, in climbing up, the latter were shaken out of the shallow pad—I did not know the sheet trick in those days—and all I got were the fragments. A third egg, taken from the same nest two days previously, was given to me. It measures $\cdot 81'' \times \cdot 65''$. Two other eggs in my possession measure $\cdot 77'' \times \cdot 59''$ and $\cdot 80'' \times \cdot 60''$ respectively. In colour they are all of a rich deep green, thickly blotched and streaked longitudinally with greenish brown.

The nest is a very flat shallow pad of twigs, rootlets, bark, lichens, &c., and much resembles that of *Graucalus macii*, only it is a little smaller.

No. 510. GRAUCALUS MACII. *Large Cuckoo-Shrike.*

Khaki Popiya [H., *teste* Reid]. Tree-Plover, Rain-bird [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Large Grey Cuckoo-Shrike is fairly common in Lucknow, and often as many as half a dozen are to be seen together. Its flight is undulating, with a few rather rapid strokes of the wing every now and again. Often, when driving along a road lined with trees, one, or possibly two, of these birds have kept me company for a mile or more, flitting on from tree to tree just ahead of the tum-tum. The nest is a shallow pad of fibres, roots, twigs, cobwebs, &c., very small for the size of the bird, and perhaps one of the most difficult to find, as the owner is exceedingly chary of disclosing its whereabouts. I first found one on a small poplar, but the bird deserted it. This was in March. On June 12th, 1898, I took two fresh eggs from a nest in the fork of a sheshum tree close to the road in the Martinière

Park. This pair were of a beautiful yellowish stone-colour richly marked with lilac and brown spots, the former appearing to be below the surface, as with Skimmers' and Terns' eggs. They measured $1.21'' \times .84''$ and $1.14'' \times .85''$. Of another similar pair I received the fragments only, as they struck a branch instead of falling straight into the sheet. This was about August 5th, 1901, and the nest was also in a sheshum. On July 27th, 1901, I found a bird sitting on a single hard-set egg, in a mango-tree. This egg was of a greenish-white colour spotted with brown and lilac, and measured $1.23'' \times .86''$. I was surprised to find the nest on this particular kind of tree, for long ago Reid wrote as follows:—"A peculiarity of this bird is that it rarely alights on mango-trees, preferring to pass over them on its way from one tree to another; while at other times it may be seen on babool-bushes, evidently oblivious of the comparatively magnificent mango-trees around." I think that Reid was somewhat mistaken in this, for the bird certainly does alight on mangos, though it often seems to prefer other trees, probably because they harbour some favourite insect. The name "Tree-Plover," given to this species by the Martinière boys, is doubtless due to the colour of the eggs, but I have never yet been able to get an explanation of the term "Rain-bird." Though strictly speaking an arboreal bird, I have constantly seen it descend to the ground, and search amongst the dead leaves for a moment or two before returning to the tree.

No. 518. *ORIOLOUS KUNDOO*. *Indian Oriole*.

Pilak [H.].

The Indian Oriole, though a permanent resident, is very scarce during the winter months, when, curiously, its place is to some extent taken by *O. melanocephalus*. It becomes common about May and breeds during June and July. The nests are cup-shaped cradles suspended in outlying forks of trees, usually, but not always, at some height from the ground. The materials are grass, tow, rags, &c., and the structure is generally well concealed from above,

but fairly easily seen from below. I have found it on various kinds of trees, but I think that the mango has the preference.

Average of 15 Lucknow eggs	1·13" × ·81"
Measurement of largest egg	1·14" × ·84"
„ smallest egg	1·11" × ·78"

The name Mango-bird, usually applied to this species, is bestowed on *Merops viridis* by the Martinière boys.

No. 521. *ORIOLOUS MELANOCEPHALUS*. *Indian Black-headed Oriole*.

Pahari-Topi-dar Pilak [H., *teste* Reid].

It is a curious fact that this bird is decidedly most common during the cold weather. When *O. kundoo* is "en évidence," this bird is rarely seen. I think that the great majority go east to breed. On one occasion, however, in June, I saw a pair apparently breeding in a mango-tope near Mohanlalganj, but, though I hunted carefully, I could not find their nest.

No. 528. *PASTOR ROSEUS*. *Rose-coloured Starling*.

Golabi Myna [H.]. Mulberry-bird [Anglo-Indian boys].

Rose-coloured Starlings are common during the cold weather, particularly so just before they start off on their bridal tour about April, when they collect in large flocks. They are certainly not permanent residents. In Reid's notes it is stated that "occasional stragglers will be met with throughout the hot and rainy seasons, and it is fairly abundant as early as the commencement of October." If Reid ever really saw the birds in the hot weather and the rains, which I venture to doubt, they must have been sickly or wounded individuals too weak to join in migration.

They are found feeding in company with Mynas and Starlings, and I have often seen numbers in cultivated ground amidst dhak-jungle.

No. 532. *STURNUS MENZBIERI*. *Common Indian Starling*.

Kusnai, Tilora [H.].

The Common Starling is very abundant in the cold weather, associating with Mynas in large flocks. It is

good eating, and I have often knocked a few over for the pot on my way home.

Reid wrote:—"When migrating in April they often depart in flocks of countless numbers. When on the Volunteer Rifle Range on the 31st April last (1881), a flock passed across the range, covering its entire length of 900 yards and extending far beyond the Butts, presenting a dense and zigzag column fully 40 yards in breadth—a sight to see and hear."

No. 534. *STURNUS PURPURASCENS. *Gould's Starling.*

Shortly before his death, Reid, knowing that I was revising his "list," wrote to me to say that amongst some skins of *S. menzbieri* sent by him to the British Museum one was identified by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe as belonging to this species.

No. 538. STURNIA MALABARICA. *Grey-headed Myna.*

Pawai [H., *teste* Reid].

According to Reid, this bird is a permanent resident. It may be so, but I doubt the fact, as I cannot recall an instance of having actually seen it in a wild state.

No. 544. TEMENUCHUS PAGODARUM. *Black-headed Myna.*

Pawai, Popoya maina, and Kala-sir Maina [H.].

The Pawai, as this bird is commonly called by everyone, native and European alike, is not nearly so numerous here as it is at many other stations. I have seen it chiefly in the avenues in cantonments, at Dilkusha Gardens, and near the Residency. It breeds from May to July, in holes of trees such as mango, pepul, siris, or sheshum. Most of my nests have been empty or have contained young birds, but on one occasion I took four light blue eggs out of a hole in a sheshum not far from the Mahomed Bagh Club. The nest was composed of hay, rags, &c., and was filthily dirty and smelt like a Hoopoe's—only worse, if possible. The usual number of eggs in a clutch appears to be three.

Average of 11 Lucknow eggs	·99" × ·70"
Measurement of largest egg	1·04" × ·72"
„ smallest egg	·94" × ·66"

This species is caught and caged by the natives, being a great favourite as a songster. It is an excellent imitator of other birds' notes.

No. 549. *ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS.* *Common Myna.*

Maina, Desi-maina, Teluri [H.].

This bird vies with the Sparrow, House-Crow, and Paddy-bird in being the commonest species in Lucknow. It is a great favourite as a pet, and the Martinière boys always have several, which are remarkably tame. It rarely commences nesting until the first fall of rain in June, and continues, according to Reid, until September, but I fancy that few lay after July. The nest is a mass of grass, rags, sticks, feathers, paper, &c., in a hole of a tree for preference, but sometimes in a building. The eggs are, of course, blue, fairly glossy, and usually three or four in number; five are rarely found.

Average of 14 Lucknow eggs	1·18" × ·86"
Measurement of largest egg.....	1·25" × ·91"
„ smallest egg	1·14" × ·82"

No. 551. *ACRIDOTHERES GINGINIANUS.* *Bank-Myna.*

Darya-maina, Daryta-maina [H.]. Well-Myna [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Bank-Myna is almost as common as the previous species, but is not so fond of human habitations. Its habits resemble those of *A. tristis*, but it breeds in colonies in holes of river-banks or wells. The nest is the usual conglomeration of sticks, rags, &c. &c. On one occasion I found parts of a Latin exercise and some arithmetic questions in a nest in the bank of the Goomti. The eggs are blue, and like those of *A. tristis*, but smaller on average. The breeding-season is from April to June, but most eggs are got at the beginning of May or a little earlier.

Average of 10 Lucknow eggs	1·09" × ·76"
Measurement of largest egg.....	1·14" × ·74"
„ smallest egg	·98" × ·78"

No. 555. STURNOPASTOR CONTRA. *Pied Myna.*

Abulka-maina, Ablak-maina [H.]. Abulka [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Pied Myna is a very common and permanent resident. It is not inclined to unite in separate flocks, but joins with the Common and Bank Mynas. Like the former, it is particularly partial to native villages. It breeds from the end of May to the end of July, but most eggs are laid in June shortly after the first fall of rain. The nest is a shapeless bundle of straw, rags, paper, grass, &c., lined with feathers, and having a hole at the side. If a babool—preferentially one in the middle of a native village—is handy, it is selected, but almost any tree will do if that fails. The eggs are usually three or four, sometimes five, light to fairly dark blue in colour, and rather glossy.

Average of 13 Lucknow eggs	1·09'' × ·77''
Measurement of largest egg.....	1·14'' × ·80''
„ „ smallest egg.....	1·06'' × ·75''

No. 561. SIPHIA PARVA. *European Red-breasted Flycatcher.*

This Flycatcher is fairly common during the cold weather, frequenting mango-topes, gardens, and trees along the railway-lines. It is an active little bird, constantly darting from its perch, and returning after a moment or two to the same spot. It departs about March, or, according to Reid, not until April.

No. 562. SIPHIA ALBICILLA. *Eastern Red-breasted Flycatcher.*

I have not shot many of these little Flycatchers. They look so pretty that, in common with many other species, I have spared them, as a rule. It is impossible to distinguish between *S. parva* and *S. albicilla*, unless the bird is in the hand, and probably I have often confounded the two. Reid says that he thinks one is about as common as the other, and I expect that he is not far wrong.

No. 575. *CYORNIS RUBECULOIDES.* *Blue-throated Flycatcher.*

Reid recorded this bird as "only a cold-weather visitor, numerically rare and seldom seen, except perhaps in the guava-groves and gardens about Lucknow. In the District it is occasionally met with in mango-topes, frequenting low branches, or often small shoots projecting from the trunks of the trees, from which it sallies forth after insects, rarely returning to the same perch, and seldom to the same tree."

I have only seen the bird once, and that was in my garden at La Martinière College.

No. 576. *CYORNIS TICKELLI.* *Tickell's Blue Flycatcher.*

According to Reid, this species is commoner than the last. I have no note of having seen it, and my impression is that both species are of rare occurrence in Lucknow.

No. 579. *STOPAROLA MELANOPS.* *Verditer Flycatcher.*

Only a cold-weather visitant, of course, and never, I think, very abundant. Reid gives the better wooded parts of the Division, the Horticultural Gardens, and the Wingfield Park—where, if I remember right, I have seen it on one or two occasions—as the localities it chiefly affects.

No. 588. *ALSEONAX LATIROSTRIS.* *Brown Flycatcher.*

I have no note of having actually come across this bird. Reid has recorded it as occurring during the "rains," but he had "no record or recollection of having seen it at other seasons."

No. 592. *CULICICAPA CEYLONENSIS.* *Grey-headed Flycatcher.*

This Flycatcher visits the Division in large numbers during the cold weather. It shews great partiality for mango-topes.

No. 598. *TERPSIPHONE PARADISI.* *Indian Paradise Flycatcher.*

Shah-Bulbul [H.]. Rock-Bulbul [Anglo-Indian boys].

A permanent resident, generally spread over the wooded portions of the Division, but far from numerically abundant.

It breeds in June and July, as I have seen the eggs. Unfortunately the only nest I actually found myself was destroyed by heavy rain. It was in a mango-tree about ten feet from the ground. Reid, however, got the eggs here, and says :—"On the 6th of June last (1881), I took a nest and four eggs from a low branch of a mango-tree. The eggs, of a delicate white salmon-colour, were minutely spotted with red, and ringed with similar spots at the large end." These four eggs averaged $\cdot 80'' \times \cdot 58''$.

NO. 601. *HYPOTHYMIS AZUREA*. *Indian Black-naped Fly-catcher*.

I am very ignorant concerning our migratory Flycatchers, as, during their stay here, whenever I have spare time, I am on the jheel shooting rather than in the tope collecting. According to Reid this species is not common. "It does not seem to care for mango-topes, in which I have never seen it; but in forest-looking tracts, with plenty of under-wood or shrubs, it may occasionally be seen, generally two or three together."

NO. 604. *RHIPIDURA ALBIFRONTATA*. *White-browed Fan-tail-Flycatcher*.

This pretty little bird with its plaintive note is common all over the Division, chiefly, I think, in mango-groves, but also in avenues and gardens. It is, of course, a permanent resident. It is interesting to watch it darting from a branch after insects, returning to its perch and spreading out its tail. It breeds, I think, twice—in March or early April, and again in the "rains." The nest is a most delicate little inverted cone of fine grass, coated with cobwebs, and is placed *on* the branch of a tree—generally a mango, but sometimes a guava or other species. Reid has given an excellent account of the nest-building, which is worth quoting :—"The place selected was a horizontal and slender mango branch about six feet from the ground, at a point where the branch terminated and three slender uprights started. In this fork they commenced the nest by twisting spiders-webs round the main or horizontal stem upon which

their tiny structure was destined to stand. Next morning the nest was but little bigger than, and almost as neat and compact as, a large acorn-cup, and entirely unconnected with any of the upright twigs. During the next two days good progress was made, and on the fifth day the nest was a perfect full-sized skeleton, having its sides firmly attached to the three perpendicular twigs. The process of thickening the sides of the nest then commenced, and in thirteen days, counting from the beginning, the nest was completed. On the fifteenth day it contained two eggs of a creamy-white colour with a zone of brownish spots at the thick end of each."

I have taken several nests and have always found the full complement of eggs to be three, though once I took four in a clutch. They are very like miniature Shrikes' eggs, white with a faint brownish tinge, and a ring of brown and purplish spots.

Average of 12 Lucknow eggs	·62" × ·49"
Measurement of largest egg	·67" × ·50"
„ smallest egg.....	·57" × ·47"

No. 608. PRATINCOLA CAPRATA. *Common Pied Bush-Chat*.
Kala Pidha [H.].

The Pied Bush-Chat is not very numerous, though I believe that it is a permanent resident. I have seen it chiefly in dhak-jungle, and ravine-like ground covered with scrub. I have never found the nest, though I have had its discovery recorded. It is possible, however, that the fabric may have belonged to *Thamnobia cambaiensis*.

No. 610. PRATINCOLA MAURA. *Indian Bush-Chat*.

A common winter visitor, coming in October and leaving in April. Reid's opinion that it is a very wary bird is not in accordance with my experience; but it is very restless, continually flitting from bush to bush, and is sometimes difficult to shoot on this account.

No. 613. *PRATINCOLA INSIGNIS. *Hodgson's Bush-Chat*.

I shot a large Bush-Chat near Ataria, about twenty miles north from Lucknow, in the early spring of 1897, but

unfortunately mislaid the skin. The bird was perched on some long grass on rough ground by the jheel side. I *think* that it must have been of this species; but until I can find the skin and properly identify it, I prefer to mark it as doubtful.

I find, on looking through the Catalogue of the Lucknow Museum, that there is a skin labelled "♀ ad., Gonda." The Marshalls record it from Cawnpore in February.

No. 615. *OREICOLA FERREA. *Dark-grey Bush-Chat.*

The discovery here of this species, which, I believe, has never before been recorded from the plains proper, is somewhat curious.

In the winter of 1897 I shot a bird, with which, at the time, I was unacquainted, and, before I had time to investigate the matter, lost the skin. On describing the bird as well as I could from memory, the conclusion was arrived at that it must be a male of *Sylvia jerdoni*, a bird that was not unlikely to be found, and accordingly I entered it as such in my last "additions." Having occasion to overhaul some old drawers of skins before leaving for England, I found the missing specimen hidden away, and at once recognised it as the Dark-grey Bush-Chat, ♂, a number of examples of which I had collected in the higher hills in 1900. I compared it very carefully with a whole series of *O. ferrea*, and quite satisfied myself this time as to its correct identity. It was shot while feeding on insects in a babool tree.

No. 625. SAXICOLA ISABELLINA. *Isabelline Chat.*

No. 626. SAXICOLA DESERTI. *Desert Chat.*

These two Chats, or Wheatears, are not very numerous, but a few may generally be found sitting on bits of kunker on the "usar" maidans. I have not shot many of them, but should fancy that neither is much commoner than the other. They are only cold-weather visitors, and leave about March.

No. 629. CERCOMELA FUSCA. *Brown Rock-Chat.*

Shama [H.]. Shama [Anglo-Indian boys].

Reid evidently muddled up the names for this and *Thamnobia cambaiensis*. The Brown Rock-Chat is universally

known as the Shama in Lucknow, where, though not numerous, a few are always to be found amongst old ruins. It breeds from March to July; but most eggs, I think, are hatched by the end of April. A couple of pairs or so always frequent the main building of the Martinière, making their nests in the dormitories, in spite of the frequency with which they are robbed. I have been unlucky with their eggs; the only specimens which I have found were in a nest in a ravine near Cawnpore. Once or twice I have found young birds. The few eggs which I have seen have been light blue, sparsely spotted with yellow-brown or brownish red.

Average of 8 Lucknow eggs	·80" × ·61"
Measurement of largest egg	·81" × ·61"
„ smallest egg	·78" × ·60"

No. 644. *RUTICILLA RUFIVENTRIS*. *Indian Redstart*.

Lalgonda [H., *teste* Reid]. Devil-bird [Anglo-Indian boys].

A very common winter visitor, arriving in September or earlier, and staying on into May.

No. 647. *CYANECULA SUECICA*. *Indian Blue-throat*.

Cut-throat [Anglo-Indian boys].

Very common in the cold weather, especially so in the crops lying along the river-banks.

No. 661. *THAMNOBIA CAMBAIENSIS*. *Brown-backed Indian Robin*.

Dama [H., and Anglo-Indian boys].

A very common and permanent resident. It has a pretty song in the breeding-season, and, at this period, as remarked by Reid, it has the habit of "dancing about all the time with its wings in a trailing position and its tail erect."

It breeds from March to July, making a Robin-like nest of grass, moss, hair, &c., in holes in buildings, walls, ravines, or occasionally amongst the leaves of the aloe and cactus. The eggs, three, or occasionally four, in number, are white or greenish white, rather thickly spotted and blotched with reddish brown, chiefly at the larger end. In the nests of

this species I have almost invariably found a bit of snake-skin, and Reid once found one entirely composed of human hair.

Average of 24 Lucknow eggs	.....	·77" × ·57"
Measurement of largest egg	.....	·83" × ·61"
„ smallest egg	.....	·71" × ·54"

No. 663. *COPSYCHUS SAULARIS*. *Magpie-Robin*.

Dhyal [H. and Anglo-Indian boys].

The Dhyal is a common and permanent resident, frequenting gardens and avenues alike, but with, I think, an especial fondness for mango-groves, in which I have often taken its nest. Reid remarked that "its food must be very varied, for I found one feeding on a centipede, about four inches long, that I made it drop with difficulty. On examining the centipede I found that life was not quite extinct."

It breeds in May, June, and July, chiefly in holes of trees, but according to Reid in wells and deserted buildings also. The eggs are usually four, pale bluish green spotted and blotched with brown, much resembling small Blackbird's eggs. On one occasion I took no less than nine from a nest in a hole in a poplar tree. They were in various stages of incubation. Doubtless more than one bird had laid them.

During the breeding-season this bird, like the Brown-backed Robin, sings sweetly; but I do not think that it does so at other times.

Average of 22 Lucknow eggs	.....	·88" × ·68"
Measurement of largest egg	.....	·93" × ·67"
„ smallest egg	.....	·84" × ·69"

No. 686. *GEOCICHLA CITRINA*. *Orange-headed Ground-Thrush*.

Only a cold-weather visitant and far from common. Reid stated that "it may, to a certainty, be found in every forest-looking bamboo-brake, frequenting damp and dark nocks, where it feeds on the slugs and insects usually found there, turning over the leaves to find them. It not unfrequently enters the Horticultural Gardens at Lucknow, where it finds suitable haunts in the damp shrubberies;

but in dry dhak-jungles, no matter how shady the trees may be, I have never seen it. It also avoids mango-topes."

No. 691. PETROPHILA CINCLORHYNCHA. *Blue-headed Rock-Thrush*.

A rare cold-weather visitor. Reid came across it on two or three occasions near Byramghat, and twice in mango-groves near Lucknow.

No. 698. OREOCINCLA DAUMA. *Small-billed Mountain-Thrush*.

A cold-weather visitor, frequenting the same localities as *Geocichla citrina*, and about as uncommon.

No. 720. PLOCEUS BAYA. *Baya or Baya Weaver-bird*.

The Baya is a common and permanent resident, though rather local in its distribution. It prefers those parts where there is a certain amount of water. It breeds in colonies, making a retort-shaped nest which is suspended from the twigs of the babool or from the leaves of the toddy-palm, and if there is any water at hand the nests are sure to overhang it. Sometimes the old structures are repaired, and I had one given me by Mr. P. J. Lucas which had seven chambers, one below the other, only the last, that of the year, being in use. The number of eggs, which are laid between June and September, is usually two, but occasionally three or four. They are pure white. The Baya makes an interesting pet, as it is easily tamed and taught to perform tricks.

Average of 18 Lucknow eggs ·80" × ·57"

Measurement of largest egg ·86" × ·60"

„ smallest egg ·75" × ·55"

No. 723. PLOCEUS MANYAR. *Striated Weaver-bird*.

Telia-baya [H.].

Reid wrote:—"Though Jerdon states that the Striated Weaver-bird does not appear in the North-west Provinces ('Birds of India,' vol. iv. p. 349), he must, I think, have been misinformed, as it certainly is not uncommon during the rains here and in suitable localities throughout both Oudh and the N.W. Provinces. In July 1878, when the Goomti was in high flood, some hundreds of these birds

commenced building their nests in a large jungle of sarpatta grass, which was then surrounded by, and standing in, water, the overflow of the river. Soon afterwards the river fell, leaving the jungle high and dry, and nesting operations immediately ceased. In only two nests did I afterwards find eggs—three in each; the average measurement of the six being $\cdot 81'' \times \cdot 59''$ —the largest measuring $\cdot 84'' \times \cdot 61''$ and the smallest $\cdot 78'' \times \cdot 56''$."

Coming down the Oudh and Rahilkund Railway, near Bareilly on the Lucknow side, I once saw a number of nests, presumably of this species, in the long patowal or sarpatta grass.

NO. 726. *MUNIA ATRICAPILLA*. *Chestnut-bellied Munia*.
Nakal-nor [H.].

Not common, though Reid recorded it as being a permanent resident. The bird-catchers always have a good number of examples, though whether they are all caught in Lucknow I rather doubt. Like other *Munias*, it is chiefly to be seen in the long sarpatta grass, feeding on the seeds.

NO. 734. *UROLONCHA MALABARICA*. *White-throated Munia*.
Chiruka [H. and Anglo-Indian boys].

The Chiruka is very common and a permanent resident, being found everywhere. It makes a rather untidy globular nest of grass and a few feathers, having a hole at the side. The eggs are white, five to seven in number; but, where two hens, or more, join forces (as not infrequently happens), quite a collection may be found. The nests are usually in thorny bushes or quick-set hedges, but on two or three occasions I have found them underneath those of *Aquila vindhiana*. On one occasion the Eagle was sitting on two eggs, and not three inches below her was a Chiruka on three.

Average of 23 Lucknow eggs	.....	$\cdot 59'' \times \cdot 46''$
Measurement of largest egg	.....	$\cdot 63'' \times \cdot 48''$
„ smallest egg	.....	$\cdot 57'' \times \cdot 44''$

NO. 735. *UROLONCHA PUNCTULATA*. *Spotted Munia*.
Seena-baz, Sing-baz [H.].

Not nearly so common as *U. malabarica*, but still fairly

numerous. It is a permanent resident and breeds here, as I once found its nest in a thorn-bush. It was like that of *U. malabarica*. Unfortunately it had no eggs, and I forgot to go later, and so never secured a clutch.

No. 737. *STICTOSPIZA FORMOSA*. *Green Munia*.

Harri-munia [H.].

The Green Munia is not common, but a few are generally to be found amongst other birds in the chirri-mars' cages. It is said to have less partiality for grass-jungles than the other species of Munia, and to be often seen in mango-topes and high trees. It may be a permanent resident, but of this I am not sure.

No. 738. *SPORÆGINTHUS AMANDAVA*. *Indian Red Munia*.

Lal Munia [H.]. Lal [Anglo-Indian boys].

A common and permanent resident, frequenting the long patowal grass of the railway-lines in considerable numbers. It is captured—as, indeed, are all Munias—by trap cages. The males are sold for fighting—a pastime in which the Mahomedans take great delight. Though it breeds in the District, I have never found the nest.

No. 761. *CARPODACUS ERYTHRINUS*. *Common Rose-Finch*.

Tuti [H.].

The Common Rose-Finch is fairly plentiful during the cold weather. It is caught by the natives in considerable numbers. Reid seems to have shot it as early as the beginning of September, but I have seen it only in the winter months.

No. 775. *GYMNORHIS FLAVICOLLIS*. *Yellow-throated Sparrow*.

Tuti [H.]. Tootie [Anglo-Indian boys].

This bird is both common and a permanent resident, frequenting baghs, mango-topes, and avenues, often in parties. Reid stated that he had often seen it feeding on the ground in flocks during the cold weather. It breeds in Lucknow in holes of trees in March, April, and May. The nest is a conglomeration of rags, wool, feathers, and similar materials.

The eggs, usually three in number, are brownish or greenish white, but so densely marked with dark brown as to be in many instances almost black.

Average of 6 Lucknow eggs	·73" × ·55"
Measurement of largest egg	·77" × ·55"
„ smallest egg	·70" × ·54"

No. 776. *PASSER DOMESTICUS. House-Sparrow.*

Gonriya [H.].

As common and as great a nuisance as he is in any other part of the world blessed with his presence. A pair made a nest on a bracket in my drawing-room. When it contained two eggs my bearer removed it bodily and brought it to me. Some hours afterwards, noticing that the eggs were well marked, I put the structure back again. The Sparrows returned and laid three more eggs. I felt I ought to have let them be hatched, but five young birds in a drawing-room was too much of a good thing, so I confiscated the eggs and banished the pair. These five eggs formed an exceedingly pretty clutch and averaged ·80" × ·59".

No. 795. *EMBERIZA BUCHANANI. Grey-necked Bunting.*

The Grey-necked Bunting is a common cold-weather visitant, occurring in large flocks. Reid remarked: "Though it resembles the Ortolan of Europe, and was for a long time considered identical, it rarely, if ever, finds its way to the table, in Lucknow at any rate, where thousands of Social and other Larks, if not Sparrows, are annually passed off as genuine Ortolans!"

No. 800. *EMBERIZA LUTEOLA. Red-headed Bunting.*

Gaudam [H.].

A common cold-weather visitant. It avoids well-wooded tracts, and, according to Reid, is especially fond of dhak-jungle bordering on cultivation. It also affects thatching-grass when it is seeding.

No. 803. *MELOPHUS MELANICTERUS. Crested Bunting.*

Kulchira [H. Lucknow, *teste* Reid].

The Crested Bunting is not, according to my experience,

common. Indeed, I think that I have only once or twice seen it, in the long patowal or sarpatta grass on the banks of the Goomti. Reid stated that it was fairly common in the cold weather in November and December, and again in March and April. The native bird-catchers usually have one or two pairs in their cages, probably caught in the district.

No. 809. *COTILE SINENSIS.* *Indian Sand-Martin.*
Chota Ababil [H.].

Very common and a permanent resident. Breeds in colonies in holes, which it excavates for itself, in the river-banks, less commonly in nullahs and cuttings. The nests, which are usually very dirty, are made of grass and feathers. The eggs, three to five in number, are laid from December to May, possibly also in other months. They are, of course, pure white.

Average of 22 Lucknow eggs	·66" × ·46"
Measurement of largest egg	·73" × ·45"
„ smallest egg.....	·64" × ·45"

No. 813. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA* (Linn.). *Swallow.*
Ababil* [H.].

A common cold-weather visitor, appearing in October and departing in May. Reid remarked that it seemed, as a rule, to prefer open country away from towns, and was especially partial to jheels.

No. 818. *HIRUNDO SMITHI.* *Wire-tailed Swallow.*

A permanent resident. It is very partial to water, as are other Swallows, doubtless on account of the insect-life. It breeds with us in March and April, and *possibly* again in the rains. The nest is a shallow cup of mud lined with feathers, usually placed under a bridge or culvert. The eggs are three in number, white with red spots. Last year I found the birds breeding in the verandah of a bungalow at the Solon Brewery, near Simla (5000 feet), as late as the end of September. This, I believe, was the third clutch. It was hatched out successfully, and I used to spend many spare

* A name commonly applied to all Swallows, Martins, and Swifts.

minutes behind the door watching the old birds feeding their young.

Average of 7 Lucknow and Fatehgarh eggs ..	.73" × .52"
Measurement of largest egg .....	.78" × .52"
„ smallest egg .....	.69" × .52"

In 'The Ibis' for January 1902, p. 19, Messrs. Rothschild and Wollaston, in their paper on "Birds from Shendi, Sudan," speak of the eggs of this bird as *pure white*; but this is, I fancy, a very uncommon variety.

No. 823. HIRUNDO ERYTHROPYGIA. *Sykes's Striated Swallow.*

This Striated or Red-rumped Swallow is common during the cold weather, though rather locally distributed. I have also seen the bird in May, and again during the rains. Whether it ever breeds with us or not, I am uncertain. The majority assuredly do not. The only place where I have seen the nests—retort-shaped structures of mud—was in an old fort near Delhi.

No. 826. MOTACILLA ALBA. *White Wagtail.*

No. 829. MOTACILLA PERSONATA. *Masked Wagtail.*

These two birds, known to the natives as "Dhobin"—*i. e.*, Dhobie's (washerman's) wife,—are common during the cold weather, coming in September and departing in April. The second is, perhaps, the more numerous of the two. They may be found almost anywhere—about rivers and jheels, in gardens and topes, on lawns and ploughed fields.

No. 831. MOTACILLA MADERASPATENSIS. *Large Pied Wagtail.*

Khanjan, Dhobin [H.].

This bird is a permanent resident and is common wherever there is any water. It occurs in pairs or singly, never in flocks, as is often the case with other Wagtails.

It breeds from March to May, but most eggs are hatched by the middle of April. The nest is a bulky structure of grass, tow, rags, feathers, and hair, placed in some nook or hole under a bridge, in a native boat, or any convenient spot near water. The eggs are three or four in number, greyish

white in colour, spotted and blotched with various shades of brown.

Average of 8 Lucknow eggs	·87" × ·63"
Measurement of largest egg	·73" × ·65"
,, smallest egg	·82" × ·61"

No. 832. MOTACILLA MELANOPE. *Grey Wagtail.*

The Grey Wagtail is fairly common during the cold weather on the banks of rivers and jheels, though not so numerous as some of the other species of Wagtails.

No. 833. *MOTACILLA BOREALIS. *Grey-headed Wagtail.*

Common, particularly on jheels and rushy streams. This Wagtail and its allies are a terrible nuisance to Snipe-shooters. They keep on rising along with the Snipe, and constantly put the sportsman off.

No. 835. *MOTACILLA BEEMA. *Indian Blue-headed Wagtail.*

Occurs in company with *M. borealis*, and is fairly common. I have no special notes on it. Of course both birds are merely cold-weather visitors.

No. 836. MOTACILLA FELDEGGI. *Black-headed Wagtail.*

Pilkya [H.].

Common during the cold weather. This species arrives early and departs late, many individuals assuming their full breeding-plumage before departure. Like the last two species, this Wagtail is very partial to jheels, rice-fields, and all well-irrigated ground. Reid has remarked that "after a good shower they may be seen in great numbers on usar plains. . . . They sometimes perch on trees."

No. 837. MOTACILLA CITREOLA. *Yellow-headed Wagtail.*

Frequents the same localities as the three last-named species, but is perhaps hardly so numerous. It is only a winter visitor.

No. 838. *MOTACILLA CITREOLOIDES. *Hodgson's Yellow-headed Wagtail.*

I have once only come across this bird, but there is also an adult skin (sex ?) in the Lucknow Museum, apparently procured by Reid. It is, of course, only a winter visitor,

and, I should think, very uncommon. My bird (♂) was shot on the banks of the Goomti, Jan. 1, 1898.

No. 840. ANTHUS TRIVIALIS. *Tree-Pipit*.

Common during the cold weather. Frequents the same localities as the next species, from which it is difficult to distinguish it, unless the bird is in the hand.

No. 841. ANTHUS MACULATUS. *Indian Tree-Pipit*.

Very common during the cold weather, some individuals remaining until the end of May. They occur in parties, not only in the fields, but also in mango-topes, where they are very abundant, flying up into trees when anyone approaches. They feed chiefly on the ground, but also on trees.

No. 844. ANTHUS SIMILIS. *Brown Rock-Pipit*.

A cold-weather visitor, not uncommonly met with on ploughed land or on waste ground round jheels and in similar localities.

No. 847. ANTHUS RUFULUS. *Indian Pipit*.

A common and permanent resident, being found indiscriminately in cultivated tracts, open plains, paddy-fields, and dhak-jungle. I have found the nest twice: once in February, with four young, and again on the 31st of March, with four fresh eggs. Both nests were in the stumps of patowal grass, which had been cut down by thatchers. They were neatly-made structures of grass, lined with hair, but fell to pieces on being lifted up. The eggs were greyish white, spotted with brown.

Average of 4 Lucknow eggs	·78" × ·57"
Measurement of largest egg	·79" × ·57"
„ smallest egg	·77" × ·57"

No. 859. *MELANOCORYPHA BIMACULATA. *Eastern Calandra Lark*.

The only specimen that I know of as being recorded from Lucknow is one that J. Green, one of the Martinière College boys, purchased from a bird-catcher. The man stated that it had been captured on one of the open maidáns or plains close to the city. The bird became very tame and used to

sing extremely well, but eventually was killed and eaten by a snake, which got into its cage during the night.

No. 861. ALAUDA GULGULA. *Indian Sky-Lark.*

Chundul [H.].

A fairly common and permanent resident, frequenting open plains, scrub-jungle, and grassy patches. Strangely, neither I nor anyone else that I know have come across the nest of this bird.

No. 863. CALANDRELLA DUKHUNENSIS. *Rufous Short-toed Lark.*

Baghaira [H.].

A very common cold-weather visitor. It collects in large flocks on the open plains and in scrub-jungle, and also in grassy meadows or along the edges of jheels. As Reid remarked in his account of the Lucknow birds, this species "is looked upon as common property by almost all the Hawk tribe." This bird is the "Ortolan" of the Anglo-Indian. In all probability *C. brachydactyla* occurs in company with *C. dukhunensis*, but I have not, so far, come across a typical specimen.

No. 869. *MIRAFRA CANTILLANS. *Singing Bush-Lark.*

Possibly this species has been overlooked, but I do not think that it is often found here. It is very local in its distribution, and the only Lucknow specimen I know of is an adult skin (? sex) in the Museum.

No. 871. MIRAFRA ERYTHROPTERA. *Red-winged Bush-Lark.*

Aggia [H.]. Hooded Lark [Anglo-Indian boys].

A common and permanent resident, found in scrub and grassy wastes, dhak-jungle, and similar localities. It breeds from March to July, making a loose nest of grass, partly domed—whence the Martinière name "hooded"—under a tuft of grass. I have *never* found more than two eggs—on one occasion one which was hard-set—but have had three brought to me, and am told that occasionally four are found. Two is, however, I think, the usual clutch with us. The eggs are

white, densely speckled with various shades of brown and yellow.

Average of 6 Lucknow eggs	·76" × ·55"
Measurement of largest egg	·83" × ·54"
„ smallest egg	·70" × ·55"

No. 874. GALERITA CRISTATA. *Crested Lark.*

Chundul [H.].

A common and permanent resident. It is extremely popular as a cage-bird, and is consequently much sought after by the chirri-mars. It keeps, as a rule, to dry ground, avoiding damp meadows, but is common all along the river-banks and on sandy islands wherever the tamarisk (jhao) grows. I have twice found its nest, on March 28th and 30th, each time containing three eggs. These were whitish, spotted and speckled with various shades of brown and lilac, in one case densely, in the other faintly. The nest was a small deep cup, so loosely put together, however, that it would not bear removal.

Average of 6 Lucknow eggs	·82" × ·64"
Measurement of largest egg	·83" × ·64"
„ smallest egg	·81" × ·64"

No. 879. PYRRHULAUDA GRISEA. *Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark.*

Duri [H., teste Reid]. Skylark [Anglo-Indian boys].

Very common and a permanent resident. Frequents usar plains, ploughed fields, and waste grounds generally. It breeds from January to May, and probably later. The nest is a little cup of grass, placed on the ground under a stone or bush. Eggs two in number, whitish, speckled with various shades of brown and grey.

Average of 6 Lucknow eggs	·72" × ·53"
Measurement of largest egg	·74" × ·58"
„ smallest egg	·68" × ·50"

No. 895. ARACHNECHTHRA ASIATICA. *Purple Sun-bird.*

Shakar-khora [H.]. Honey-sucker, Honeysuckle [Anglo-Indian boys].

The Purple Sun-bird is very common and a permanent

resident, frequenting gardens and jungle where there are flowers, but eschewing, as a rule, more barren ground; it is not, I think, very fond of mango-groves, though occasionally I have found it nesting in those trees. It breeds from February to June; according to my experience, chiefly during the earlier part of that period. The nest is a pretty little egg-shaped ball, with a hole in the side near the top, over which there is an awning or portico. It is formed of grass, cobwebs, hair, &c., and is always ornamented with the excreta of caterpillars. As a rule, it is suspended from a low twig two or three feet from the ground, but occasionally it is placed much higher. The usual number of eggs is two, but three are often found. They are greenish or brownish white in colour, thickly spotted and marked with various shades of brown and grey.

Average of 15 Lucknow eggs	·63" × ·44"
Measurement of largest egg	·67" × ·45"
„ smallest egg	·58" × ·42"

No. 919. **DICÆUM ERYTHORHYNCHUM*. *Tickell's Flower-pecker*.

White Honey-sucker [Anglo-Indian boys].

This little bird was overlooked by Reid, and I only discovered it by means of the Martinière boys. Ever since I had commenced collecting in Lucknow, I had been told of the "White Honey-sucker," which made a nest like the Purple Sun-bird and laid *white* eggs. For a long time I was incredulous, but on March 13, 1900, two boys, J. Green and L. Jackson, shewed me a nest with one egg. It was a tiny grass ball, with a hole in the side, suspended beneath some mango-leaves. I waited for some time, but did not see the bird. Being convinced, however, that it could belong to no other species, I took the nest, as it was almost certain to be found by some other sharp-eyed youngster. On March 10, 1901, Green shewed me another nest ready for eggs. Unfortunately the two birds, which were watching us, deserted it, and all that I got was the empty fabric. This was situated in a *bêl*-tree, about five feet from the ground, and, like the other, was most cleverly concealed. In fact the

only way to find the nest of this species is by watching the parents, no easy matter. Major Cock apparently found this bird breeding at Sitapur, 60 miles north of Lucknow.

This single egg which I have taken is pure white, glossless, and measures $\cdot 55'' \times \cdot 41''$.

No. 921. *PIPRISOMA SQUALIDUM*. *Thick-billed Flower-pecker*.

Bull-Tit [Martinière boys].

A common and permanent resident. It is to be seen wherever there are trees, singly or in small parties, hunting for food amongst the leaves. The nest is a most lovely little purse, suspended from a horizontal twig. It is a felted mass of fibres, cotton-down, &c., and is so covered with red scales of vegetable matter that it has a pink appearance. The whole fabric is so beautifully woven that it can be crumpled up in the hand without injury. The entrance is at the side, or rather the end. I have found it on many trees—sheshum, cotton, mango, neem, babool, &c., but the first-named is, I think, the favourite. The eggs, two or three, white or pinky white, spotted and blotched with red and claret, are laid from February to May, the majority being obtained during the month of March.

Average of 7 Lucknow eggs	$\cdot 62'' \times \cdot 44''$
Measurement of largest egg	$\cdot 64'' \times \cdot 45''$
" smallest egg	$\cdot 60'' \times \cdot 43''$

[To be continued.]

XXXIV.—*On a New Kingfisher of the Genus Corythornis.*

By T. SALVADORI, F.M.Z.S.

(Plate XIII.)

THE Alcedinine genus *Corythornis* is restricted to the Ethiopian Region, and has representatives in every part of it. While *Corythornis cristata* is confined to Madagascar and the Comoro Islands, it appears that *C. cyanostigma* extends over the whole of the region from the Cape to Senegambia on the west, and to Abyssinia on the east, and also reaches

across Tropical Africa from Senegambia to Abyssinia. Besides these, there is a third species, *C. galerita*, which appears to be confined to Western Africa, from Gaboon to Angola, but is also found, according to several ornithologists, in the islands of the Bight of Benin.

I have never had the opportunity of examining specimens of the *Corythornis* of Prince's Island, which by Dohrn (P. Z. S. 1866, p. 325), and more recently by Dr. Sharpe (Cat. B. xvii. pp. 166, 167), has been attributed to *C. galerita* (= *C. cæruleocephala*); but quite recently I have been able to examine five examples (two fully adult and three young) of a *Corythornis* from the Island of S. Thomé, collected by Signor Leonardo Fea. I was at once struck by the peculiarities shewn by these specimens—especially by the young birds, which were such that I could not possibly identify them with *C. galerita*. My task in the identification, however, was not easy, as the Turin Museum has no specimens of the last-named species to compare with those from S. Thomé.

As already stated, the young birds from S. Thomé are very peculiar, having the malar region, the sides of the head, and breast both on the middle and along the sides, brownish black; such features are not mentioned as occurring in the young of *C. galerita* or of any of the allied species. To clear up my doubts about the status of the S. Thomé bird, I decided to send three of the specimens (one adult and two young) from that island to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, who, being the author of several monographic works on this family, and having in the British Museum very rich material to make the necessary comparisons, was, no doubt, the ornithologist most capable of deciding questions relating to the Kingfishers. Dr. Sharpe, after having examined my specimens, assures me that they are different from those of Prince's Island and of the western coast of Africa in the British Museum, adding that the young birds are the most curious that he has ever seen. He has pointed out to me that, while in adult specimens of *C. galerita* from Prince's Island the light bars across the pileum are blue, and only on the back part of the crest of a malachite-green, in the

S. Thomé bird the crown has malachite-green bars down to the forehead. But the most remarkable characters appear in the young birds—a fact of considerable importance. It is well known that the young of allied species are usually alike, and that the adults become different, shewing the specific characters. But, on the contrary, in the S. Thomé bird the adult examples are very similar to those of the allied species, and greater differences are shown in the young. I am not acquainted with a similar state of affairs in any other bird.

It appears that specimens of the genus *Corythornis* from S. Thomé, besides those collected by Signor Fea, are only to be found in the Museum of Hamburg, collected by Weiss, as mentioned by Hartlaub, and in the Museum of Lisbon, which has examples procured by several collectors, especially by Mr. F. Newton (as mentioned by Prof. Barboza du Bocage and De Sousa); but all these ornithologists have wrongly identified the S. Thomé bird with *C. galerita*. Prof. Bocage also mentions a young female, but makes no allusion whatever to the very peculiar juvenile characters!

To these remarks I add a Latin description of the new species and the references which appear to belong to it.

CORYTHORNIS THOMENSIS, sp. nov. (Plate XIII.)

C. galerita similis, sed gastræo castaneo, loris nigris, regione malari castanea paullum nigro tincta, tæniisque transversis pilei cæruleo-viridibus, seu malachitaceis, diversa. Long. tot. mm. 145–147, al. 59, caud. 28, rostri culm. 32.

Av. jr. Regione malari, loris, capitis lateribus, pectore medio ejusque lateribus fusco-nigris; dorso maculis cæruleo-malachitaceis notato; rostro nigro.

Alcedo cæruleocephala Hartl. (nec Gm.) Beitr. Orn. Westafr. in Wiebel's Verz. pp. 1, 18 (S. Thomé, *Weiss*) (1850); id. Contr. Orn. 1850, p. 131 (S. Thomé); id. Abh. naturw. Ver. Hamb. ii. 2, pp. 1, 18 (S. Thomé, *Weiss*) (1852); id. Orn. Westafr. p. 36 (S. Thomé, *Weiss*) (1857); Sousa, Journ. Sc. Lisb. n. xlvii. p. 151 (S. Thomé) (1888).

Corythornis cæruleocephala, Boc. (nec Gm.) Journ. Sc. Lisb. i. p. 134 (S. Thomé, *Dr. Nunes*) (1867); Sharpe, Mon. Alced. p. 39 (part.) (1869); Boc. Journ. Sc. Lisb. n. xxvi.



H. Goodchild, del. et. lith.

Bale & Danielsson. imp.

CORYTHORNIS THOMENSIS. (1) AD. (2) JR.

